Fall 8-15-2007

ENG 1091G-098: Composition and Literature, Honors

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English 1091.098: Composition and Literature, Honors
Fall 2007

Instructor: David Raybin
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Office Hours: Tu 9:30-11; W 9:00-12:00 (and by appointment)
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Texts: Edward Abbey, Desert Solitaire
       Henry Benton, The Outermost House
       Annie Dillard, Pilgrim at Tinker Creek
       Aldo Leopold, A Sand Country Almanac
       Terry Tempest Williams, Refuge: A Natural History of Family and Place

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

August
21: Introduction to the course
23: Benton, Outermost House, pp. 1-58
28: Benton, Outermost House, pp. 59-140
30: Benton, Outermost House, pp. 141-218

September
4: Paper #1
   Conference
6: Williams, Refuge, pp. 3-95
11: Williams, Refuge, pp. 96-190
13: Williams, Refuge, pp. 191-290
18: Paper #2
   Conference
20: Abbey, Desert Solitaire, pp. xi-94
25: Abbey, Desert Solitaire, pp. 95-195
27: Abbey, Desert Solitaire, pp. 196-269

October
2: Paper #3
   Conference
4: Dillard, Pilgrim, pp. 3-77
9: Dillard, Pilgrim, pp. 78-183
11: Dillard, Pilgrim, pp. 184-277
16: No class – Paper #4
18: Conference
30: Research Project - prospectus

November
1: Conference
6: Library Workshop
8: Class Workshop
December

13: Research Project – draft of ten-page paper
15: Conference
20-22: Thanksgiving Holiday
27: Class Workshop
29: Research Project – final copy of ten-page paper

December 4: To be announced

6: Portfolio of Short Essays

Course Requirements and Grading

Final grades will be determined on a 100-point scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Four papers and portfolio</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research project</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
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Course Grade: A= 91-100; B= 82-90.99; C= 73-81.99; D= 65-72.99; F= below 65

Writing Assignments. You will write three short papers, two of which will be revised. You will also complete a research project, including a prospectus, a first draft, and a final paper of at least ten pages. Grading will be based on what you have to say and how well you say it. Handouts will describe the assignments more fully.

Participation. This is not a lecture class. I expect you to show up for every class and offer sensible contributions to the classroom discussion.

Course/University Policies

Typing. Your papers must be typed (double-spaced with one-inch margins).

Honor Policy. Education depends on honesty. Should you cheat and I find out about it, you can expect to fail the course. The University may take additional action.

Plagiarism. If you use other people's words or ideas without citing your sources and indicating when you have quoted, you risk failing an assignment or even the course depending on how serious I deem the offense. If you are not sure what plagiarism is, or whether a particular use of language constitutes plagiarism, ask me before you turn in an assignment.

Students with Disabilities. "If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible."

Course Description

During the first nine weeks, you will read five books, each a classic of writing about the natural world. In class we will discuss the books, and you are expected to be fully engaged in the discussion. Outside of class, you will write four short papers, experimenting with different approaches to observing and writing. Later, you will revise these papers into a portfolio of your writing. During the final six weeks, you will engage in a research project, the goal being to learn enough about some feature of the world around you to write a knowledge-based ten-page paper in which you say something you care about to a reader . . . and say it both intelligently and beautifully.